

**BT/CT/RAD Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 9, 2012, 10:00 AM**

Attendees: Julie Nassif, Tanya Swanson, Johanna Voston, Deb Carter, Cheryl Gauthier, Matt Osborne, Caley Heckman, Tracy Stiles, Rebecca Hastings, Jennifer Jenner, Nicole Clark, and Sydney Fuller-Jones

Facilitator: Julie Nassif

Recorder: Sydney Fuller-Jones

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 7th, 10:00am – 11:00am, Room 123

BT Lab (As Reported By Cheryl Gauthier)

- Cheryl reported that The District Attorney of Worcester County (Joseph D. Early, Jr.) requested a meeting on Wednesday, June 27th to discuss a more tempered response to the suspicious substance incidents that have occurred at the Department of Corrections facilities. The meeting was attended by DPH, FBI, MSP, Fusion Center, State Crime Lab, Bomb Squad, State HazMat, USPS, AUSA, District Attorneys, Sheriff's department and the Dept of Corrections. Discussions involved the recent changes that DOC has instituted at the MCI Shirley facility to alleviate additional responses and tempering response procedures to reduce costs to the Commonwealth. The DOC changes included opening incoming mail outside of the facility to reduce contamination and exposure within the facility and matching return address inmate information against inmate ID number on outgoing mail to eliminate threat letters being sent under a different inmates ID number. Since these changes have been made, we have not had any additional incidents at this facility. It was determined through discussion that tempering responses was not possible because once the hazmat team responds they must follow their protocols and since the jail cannot control the influx of drugs into the facility, they cannot prevent someone from mailing a biological agent into an inmate to be sent out in a threat letter.

Training (As Reported by Deb Carter)

- Deb stated that training is ongoing here at HSLI. On Monday, July 9th, Deb ran an all day **Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Hazardous Materials** seminar for 18 participants. On June 19th, she ran a **Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Hazardous Materials** seminar off-site at Signature Healthcare in Brockton for 16 area participants. Both seminars were very well received. The next **BT/CT/RAD First Responder training** will be on August 15th; at this time, there are 22 people signed up for the program. The next **Agents of Bioterrorism: Sentinel Laboratory Training** class will be held on September 12th, and the next **Biosafety and Biosecurity: Minimizing the Risks in the Laboratory** class will be held on October 24th.

If anyone is interested in attending any or all of these trainings, please contact Deb Carter at X6675.

Epi (As Reported by Matt Osborne)

- Matt reported that there has been an increase in rabies related calls from the public due to increased temperatures. He also touched upon the two ongoing foodborne disease clusters. Matt also discussed a single case of paralytic shellfish poisoning attributed to a closed shellfishery. He ended with the discussion of the three pools of WNV positive mosquitoes throughout the state.

CST (As reported by Caley Heckman)

- Caley informed us that as of June 15th, 1st CST has a new Commanding Officer. Major Matt Woolums is the incoming Commander, having served on the team for 5 years, his last job being that of Deputy Commander. Caley also reported that the 1st CST had a successful deployment to Boston in support of the Tall Ships, as well as the Fourth of July.

CT Lab (As reported by Jennifer Jenner)

- Jennifer introduced Nicole Clark, the new assistant CT Coordinator to the group.
- Last month Julie and Jennifer were invited to tour the office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), and Julie presented at grand rounds on the analytical capabilities of the Analytical Labs and how they might benefit the MEs. Julie will work on setting up a tour for the ME's at the Lab.